

A Concise View  
Of the Rise, Progress, Improvement And  
Present State of  
the Science of Medicine. —  
With a few pages on Natural Philosophy with  
an account of the animal economy both in health  
and disease of the body, Pathology, Therapeutics,  
and Dietetics.  
So constructed as to be easily  
digested, and easily be applied.

By Chandler Redfield Jr.  
Physician to the Hospital for the Insane  
and the Incurable of  
Pennsylvania.

Admitted March 17. 1819

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### Introduction.

By the word *Physic*, was formerly understood, Natural Philosophy. It has since been emphazized to denote *Medendi Scientia, Ars Medicinalis*, or the Science of Medicine. A knowledge of this science, presupposes an intimate acquaintance with the laws of the animal economy, both in health and disease, &c of Physiology Pathology, Materia Medica, and Therapeutics.

In constituting a branch of medicine, surgery might, very justly, be included.

Chirurgia, is derived from the Greek χειρ, the hand, and ώρα, work. If a superficial mind, it would appear from this etymology, that surgery is only a mechanical art. But his ideas must be very contracted, and illiberal, who considers it as consisting in manual dexterity, alone. By what mechanical operation, or manual skill, does the surgeon cure fever, erysipelas, or the venereal disease? He is not a surgeon who has merely acquired

and the removal of diseased parts, have got up  
a system which will supersede the present  
method of removing the diseased parts, and  
thus shorten the time required, and  
lessen the danger attending

† I am not here forgetting that the business of the surgeon is exclusively the treatment of  
diseases. He certainly is not, for he is most frequently employed in the management  
of accidental injuries. But the treatment of some diseases particularly appertains  
to the surgeon, and all those which supervene accidental injuries.

the art of dressing a wound, applying a bandage, tying up an artery, or extracting a tumor; but he who knows the structure, action, and functions, of the human body, the several changes it may undergo, and the several powers by which it can be changed; qualifications equally necessary, both for the surgeon and the physician.

If these remarks be just, physic and surgery, though sometimes disunited, yet their theory, and general principles, are so indivisible, that they, in fact, really constitute one and the same science. What the physician cannot cure, he applies to the surgeon to remove. The former cures whatever diseases his remedies and skill enable him to cure, and palliates the rest. The latter cures whatever diseases will admit of a remedy, removes whatever diseased parts cannot be cured; and will admit of removing; and palliates those diseases, which can neither be cured nor removed. Both the physician and the surgeon, accomplish these indications, by those means which change the state of the system, or by those which excite, and keep up an action, incompatible with the



disease, or morbid action, and one that has a tendency to terminate in health.

Having shown the intimate connexion between  
physic and surgery, I proceed to give some account of their  
use, progress, improvement, and present state.

2000 ft. above sea level. The water is very  
clear and contains many small fish.  
The water is very clear and contains many small fish.

## Of the Rise and Progress of Physic.

It is highly rational to suppose, that our science took its origin, at a period not far remote, from that of disease itself. The sight of a fellow being in distress, borne down by the weight of disease, and a desire of lessening human misery by human means, prompted some one, to search for a remedy, suited to the object in view. But far whatever was known on the subject of physic before the invention of letters, and the cultivation of the arts and sciences generally, we must forever remain ignorant. The most ancient histories with which we are acquainted, as though the events to be related were of more abundant importance to mankind, scarcely hint at the subject of medicine.

It has been questioned whether Moses, the emancipator and law-giver of the Israelites, had ever entered into the sacred areae of Apollo? But it can scarcely be doubted that he was not familiarly acquainted with whatever was known on the subject of medicine, <sup>in his time</sup>, as he was brought up among the most enlightened of the age, and in-

\* Buller's Mat. Med.

trusted in all the learning of Egypt. But it is remarkable that he mentions no other diseases in the Pentateuch, but leprosy, gonorrhœa, and fluor albus; nor any remedies for these, but those of a prophylactic nature, better calculated to prevent their spreading, than to effect their cure.

"The first distinct account of the art of physic, as conceived by a particular class of men, are those we have of it in Greece, among the priests of Asclepius. The temples of Asclepius were probably, the first schools of the art, the first writings upon it were produced here, and from those originated the first clinical practitioners."\*

Of these was Hippocrates, who has, emphatically, and perhaps justly, been styled, The Father of Medicine. It is in his writings that we must look for what was then, and for what had previously, been known, on the subject of physic. He possessed of a mind truly great and good, of a genius splendid and illustrious, and of an education, every way adequate to the purpose,

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Hippocrates, more than any man before his time, contributed to the advancement of the medical science, by his quick discernment, and correct observation of diseases; and by his persevering, and indefatigable attention to their phenomena.

Aristotle, and Theophrastus, by laying the foundation of natural history, helped to improve the knowledge of the *materia medica*.

Herophilus the Anatomist, who held a distinguished rank among the Greek physicians, was none of the least active in his endeavour to discover remedies suited to the cure of such diseases as then prevailed.

Whether Philinus of Cos, the pupil of Herophilus, and Serapion, reputed founders of the Empiric school, contributed to the improvement of physic, is not known.

In Rome, physic might early have been expected to make rapid advances. But this we find was not the case. For, though this city afterwards became the seat

alluring to animals in the neighborhood. One squirrel  
especially is evidently a regular visitor, and he comes  
in at the window at noon and evening, and in the  
evening, after a quiet time, he goes back to his  
nesting place in the old willow hedge, and has  
been seen in early morning to return again to the window.  
He carries with him a portion of the meal, and eats  
it in quietness and security. Another squirrel  
comes in at night, and has been seen to carry off

of physicians, poets, philosophers, orators and statesmen; yet long after its foundation, it was the asylum of criminals and vagabonds, a rude, dissenting, and uncivilized race of men, more addicted to arms, than to arts.

Their greatest concern was, to people their city, extend their conquests, and heighten their triumphs, by successive victories, fearing to encourage the cultivation of the fine arts, lest it should tend to cool their ardour for war, and quench their thirst for rapine and slaughter. The practice for a long time, was in the hands of Greek physicians, who established themselves at Rome.

Among the number who flourished here, none of the least celebrated, was Asclepiades. But it is said, his theory was so profound, that few of his contemporaries could understand it: which difficulty is supposed to have given rise to the Methodist sect.

The famous Celsus was, perhaps, the only native Roman who ever became distinguished in medicine. A great deal more occurs in his writings, relating to the *materia medica*, whence his judgment and capa-

numbered line were added, and all kinds  
of writing did away, as it seems by the next day  
beginning line, quidam's name is added to line down  
the middle, since it follows immediately after  
Lodowic's last mark, it can scarcely be said that  
there is ground with sufficient probability for  
a conclusion that Lodowic was the author of  
such a line, but as his handwriting does not fit  
Lodowic's writing well with respect to the  
writing of the first line, it may be considered

\* The *Theriaea Andromachi*, containing only one article, is a specimen of this  
writing, and may be considered as a specimen of  
the handwriting of Lodowic, as it is written  
in his usual script, and although he is  
considered to be a good hand, it is  
not difficult to conceive that it may  
not be his handwriting, as it is written  
in a very uniform and regular manner,  
and is perfectly legible without difficulty.

ability, are obvious, than in those of any former author. His errors are hardly to be mentioned, when we take into consideration the difficulties he laboured under. But the study of poisons, and antidotes, now became fashionable, and is said to have engrossed great part of the time of this literary man; as well as that of his contemporaries, and immediate successors.

What now served, in a great measure, to retard the progress, and repress the practitioners, of medicine, was, that, ungenerous selfishness of keeping medicines secret, that injurious licentiousness of composition from a deficient knowledge of chemistry, and the many superstitious follies which occurred with respect to those remedies.

Dioscorides, and Pliny senior, wrote pretty sparingly on the *materia medica*; but the student seldom peruses their works, at this enlightened period, with a view of gaining medical information.

Soon after these, flourished Galen. His ideas of disease, and the operation of medicines, were somewhat peculiar.

and a country's worth in itself, which we often  
forget. But consider, however, it is a great and important and  
by your method, much harder to distinguish it, because  
there is less originality, and it is less, being derived from  
other countries. One question, however, will settle all

the difficulties, and that is, how far back  
we go. You evidently consider all knowledge  
as being upon one common subject to particular nations,  
and hence you consider the progress of knowledge made  
either in the nation where it has originated, or else  
influence and a propagation. However

consider this, now, according to the division  
into which modern knowledge falls, and consider it as  
existing in two forms. Let me begin with the former.  
Motherby says, that the day on which Constantinople was taken by Mahomet  
the great, may be called the birth-day of learning to the western part of Europe,  
from the number of learned Greeks which on that occasion retired to Italy.

He contended that the effects of medicines depend, principally, upon their general qualities of heat and cold, moisture and dryness. However absurd Galen's theory might have been, it was embraced with avidity, and implicitly followed, for nearly fifteen hundred years, by all the physicians of Greece which came after Galen, and by all those of Asia, Europe and Africa. This was probably owing to the subversion of the western part of the Roman empire by the Goths, Vandals, Huns and other Barbarians, and the destruction of the Alexandrian library, and every monument of learning and taste, which put a stop to the cultivation of literature, and every exertion to make any further improvements in medicine.

It was not till the taking of Constantinople, and the entire overthrow of the Roman empire in 1453, and the study of the language and literature of the Greeks in the west of Europe, that the doctrines of Galen, here, became thoroughly known. Though triumphant for a time, they were deemed, at last, to fall under the formidable attacks of the chemists, early in the sixteenth century.



At the head of these, was the eccentric, and enthusiastic, Paracelsus.

During the Alchymical age, some acquisitions to the materia medica took place. Vehement exertions however employed, are seldom wholly unproductive. For some of our most powerful remedies we are indebted to the discoveries of the Alchymists, when in search of the philosopher's stone, and the immortal elixir. Their efforts never ceased, their fires never went out, but all nature groaned beneath their transmutating instruments.

The discovery of the circulation of the blood, we should suppose, would have been attended with considerable reformation and improvement in medicine. This, however, was not immediately realized. Not aware that the laws which govern paper, and inanimate matter, are entirely different from those which govern living matter, the animal system was looked upon as a mere hydraulic machine, and the preservation of health was supposed to depend entirely on the freedom of the circulation, and on the quantity, and quality, of the fluids;



and disease was imputed to a loss of equilibrium between the solids and fluids, and an interrupted or disordered circulation.

"In every age," says an elegant writer, "medicine has been corrupted by the ambition to apply to it the general theories, or particular views of the other sciences. Its early history shows, that it was constantly subjected to the eminent philosophy of antiquity. When chemistry triumphed, we have seen its reasonings ~~over~~ intertwined with every set of opinions, and shaping every form of practice. But mathematics came into vogue, and the functions of the living system, as well as the operations of medicine, were explained on pure geometrical principles. After a while, however, the reign of metaphysics ensuing, had all its subtlety and abstractions, in the place of the preceding parade of data, postulates, and demonstrations."

"Thus stood our science at the close of the eighteenth century, when three distinguished characters arose, to subvert the authority of their predecessors, and to share among them the empire of medicine. These were Stahl,

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Carries the world in his hand like a  
child in his arms. He is the world  
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Borhaave and Hoffmann. How far their several systems tended to improve the science of medicine, I will not now undertake to determine.

It is here to be observed, that, in proportion to the establishment of medical schools in Europe, the cultivation of anatomy, physiology and botany, has the practice of physic and surgery been improved, and the *materia medica* enlarged.

Document the names of the illustrious characters which would have been engaged in these important pursuits, would fill volumes. They are respected by every student of medicine, and by every lover of science.

The European writers on the *materia medica* of a recent date, and those best entitled to our notice, are Murray of Gottingen, Lewis, Ballou, and Dr. Murray of Edinburgh.

But how pleasing is the thought, that I have arrived at that period in this detail, when I can mention the flight of medical science to the shores of Columbia, the asylum of the oppressed, the safe retreat from the hardened shafts of tyranny, where the fostering hand of freedom.

This is the first part  
I have had of printed & copied

*Elements of Physic & Mat. Med.*

guides her sons into every noble pursuit, uncontrolled by the government, the doctrines, and prejudices of the old world.

Early did the writers on natural history in America, lay the foundation for a *materia medica*, by their botanic, and sometimes by their medical description, of our numerous plants. But the credit of leading in this new career, is deservedly due, to the late professor Barton of this University. Confessedly it was by him that a real taste for ~~the~~<sup>P. B. Story</sup> natural sciences was created, and diffused in the United States, the charms and utility of which, were ardently and eloquently enforced, in his lectures, in his conversation, and by his writings.\* But how has the ingenuity, the labour, and the perseverance, of the numerous graduates in our different medical schools, been displayed, in investigating the medical properties of American plants! Here is a noble display of talents which cannot be too much admired, nor too much encouraged.

The first treatise on the American *materia medica* was, a paper entitled *Specifica Canadensis*. (Vide Amoenitates Academicæ Vol. IV. Disertatio 72.)†

of the different species, than upon the name. Nothing  
can better express the condition of a name  
and its rank in systematic value, than the rank  
of the author who first proposed it. In the same  
way, however, we can tell in what degree it will  
be regarded, given the present usage, as it is  
an important consideration of the rank of a name  
to consider the number of its supporters, and of course  
the number of publications in which it appears  
in general. Therefore, since we desire to know  
the specific value of the name, it is important to know  
what it can do for us. We can only do so by  
knowing the rank of the author, and the  
number of publications in which it appears.

\* Besides the treatise on the materia medica of the United States, several  
others have been published; and two very splendid works on that subject  
concerned with botany are now publishing: one by the professor of botany  
in the University of Pennsylvania, and the other by Dr. Bigelow.

The next was that of Dr. J. D. Schoff of Erlangen, Germany, under the title of *Materia Medica Americana Potissimum Rogni Vegetabilis*. A. 1787.

The learned author of this work, arranges the medicinal articles which he describes, according to the sexual system of Linnaeus; and though he did not always judge of their virtues from his own experience, and was sometimes too credulous of their reputed qualities, yet it answered a valuable purpose by directing the attention of physicians to the examination of our indigenous articles of medicine.

Soon after this appeared the "Collections for an Essay Towards a Materia Medica of the United States," by B. S.

Barton, M.D. Professor of Materia Medica, Natural History, and Botany, in the University of Pennsylvania. This little work aroused the spirit of investigation and added vigour to the exertions of country practitioners, and medical students throughout the United States. It is surprising to observe what the learning, the genius, and the well directed endeavours, of one man, can accomplish. "Too early has he been removed from the sphere of

Boston. The work <sup>entitled</sup> The Elements of Therapeutics, and Materia Medica, recently issued by the professor of the Institute and Practice of Medicine, has been received with an avidity, which is the best proof of its merit.

We have long seen the utility of the "American Dispensatory," as giving an accurate account of medicaments connected with their pharmaceutical preparation.

These attempts to enlarge and improve the materia medica shall, as instances of a most important and illustrations speak in the new world, which can not fail to vindicate the insulated genius of our country, from the contemptuous asperities, so long, and disgracefully, endur'd by us."

his labours, and the world deprived of his discoveries and improvements. Emulating, however, his example, those, who have succeeded him in the school, in the several departments of the *materia medica*, natural history, and botany, seem resolute to repair his loss, by pursuing the same radiant, path of duty and usefulness.

It is by American physicians, especially, the different professors in the University of Pennsylvania, that the most important improvements have been made, in the practice of physic. Persuaded that the diseases of the new world, like its productions, animal and vegetable, its rivers, lakes and mountains, have forms more gigantic than those of the old, and aware that American diseases <sup>can</sup> hardly be cured by strictly following the directions of European books; they laboured to disentangle themselves from the false theories and maxims of their predecessors, and to confine themselves to the phenomena of diseases, and to the state of the system. Some of the illustrious characters, who have contributed largely to the reformation of physic in the United States, are



remore. But their memories shall live in the hearts of  
all who had the honour of knowing them personally,  
of hearing their lectures, or of reading their works.

Others, engaged in the same cause, survive to complete  
their labours, and to receive the honours of their coun-  
try.

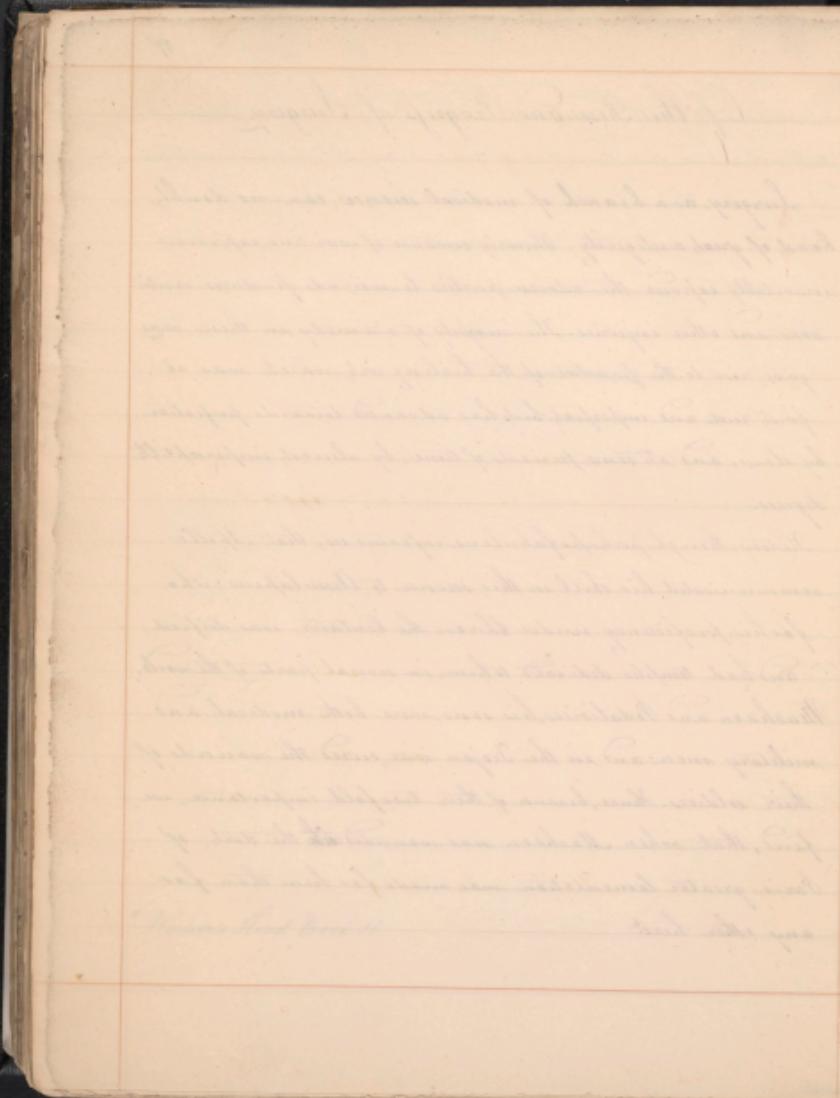
by which it is not likely to remain, but which may  
affording with regard to which the subject has  
been fully discussed in our last article.  
Hence it is only necessary to add that a large number  
was sent to us from a Canadian mill.

C. G.

\* Homer's Iliad Book 11.

## Of the Rise and Progress of Surgery.

Surgery, as a branch of medical science, can no doubt,  
boast of great antiquity. The early existence of war and rapine  
inevitably exposed the adverse parties to wounds, fractures, contu-  
sions, and other injuries. The necessity of a remedy in these cases  
gave rise to the practice of the healing art which was at  
first rude and imperfect, but has advanced towards perfection  
by slow, and at some periods of time, by almost imperceptible  
degrees. History, though perhaps fabulous, informs us, that Apollo  
communicated his skill in this science to Aesculapius; who,  
for his proficiency under Chiron the Centaur, was deified,  
and had temples dedicated to him, in several parts of the world.  
Machaon and Podalirius, his sons, were both medical and  
military men; and in the Trojan war, cured the wounds of  
their soldiers. Hence, because of their twofold importance, we  
find, that when Machaon was wounded ~~with~~ the dart of  
Paris, greater remediation was made for him than for  
any other hero.



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In the writings of Hippocrates, are to be found remarks on the treatment of wounds, ulcers, fractures, luxations &c. He was undoubtedly the ablest surgeon of his time. Other Greeks practised surgery as Galen, Cribasius of Sardis, Alexander, Trallianus, Petrus Paulus Aegineta &c.

Among the Romans, Celsus was the most celebrated of his time. Erasistratus, and Herophilus, of the Alexandrian school, are also to be mentioned.

After the burning of the library of Ptolemy Philadelphus, by the Saracens, in 640, consisting of 700,000 volumes, the cultivation of both surgery and physic, may be considered as having an end, in this unhappy country. After the fall of Alexandria, the Arabians, having possessed themselves of some books which probably had been saved from the general conflagration, became more conspicuous in the practice of surgery, than any other nation. Those of this description were Rhazes, Avicenna, Avenzar, Avicenna, and Alucasis.

After these Arabian authors, upon the emerging of learning from the dark clouds of ignorance under which

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it had long been veiled. in the thirteenth century, the reformation of surgery was commenced in France, by Petard and Lanfranc; and soon after in England by Aiden. By a succession of men of genius and learning such as Raoufour, Mandeville, Quide de Caeniac, Paré, Guillemeau, in the former, and such as Gole, Blaies, Woodall, Banister, Wiseman and others, in the latter kingdom, surgery was gradually advanced. Other authors, are mentioned as Marianus Sanctus, Marcus Caelius Severinus, Fabrianus ab Aquapendente, Le Cat, Rouen, the illustrious M. De La Peyronie &c.

It was not however until the discovery of the circulation of the blood, and the advancement of anatomical knowledge, that surgery was placed upon a proper foundation, and pursued a steady pace. For the last century, it has been making rapid progress. But it is remarkable how long the ancient surgeons remained ignorant of the treatment of certain surgical cases. For example: Amputation was seldom, or never performed, for fear of a fatal hemorrhage. Mr. John Bell observes, that of the old surgeons ventured to amputate a limb, they only

Quod si illa gurgite profluvit vinctum, sonae, quae sanguinem fundunt apprehendentes, circapie id, quod inter eis, dubius locis deligentes, intercedentesque sunt, ut et in se ipsoe vocant, et nihil omnino ora praecclusa habeant; Lib. V. Cap. 26.

<sup>†</sup> The tournament was invented by Morellus between the years 1070 and 1080. Sir Hugh Brit. Eng. Petit invented another kind in 1718. The latter, with the improvements of Duke, is the one now in use.

did so when it had mortified, by dividing the dead parts; and a great was their apprehension of bleeding, that they only dared to cut parts which could no longer bleed. And no wonder, for they knew no way of stopping the hemorrhage.

Claudius Galen, in cases of hemorrhage from a wound, to prevent a man from bleeding to death, recommends it to be filled with syphilitic lint, on which a sponge dipped in cold water is to be laid, and pressed on the part with the hands. If notwithstanding, it continues to bleed, he directs repeatedly applying fresh lint dipped in vinegar. When it resists these remedies, he advises two ligatures to be applied to the wounded part of the vessel, and then to cut, or divide the portion between them.

Notwithstanding this hint of using the ligature, neither Galen himself, nor his successors, seem to have taken any advantage of their use; for they all resorted to styptics, coharctaries, and the acutest cautery.

The tourniquet was not known in practice, till past the middle of the seventeenth century.

The double incision, in the operation of amputation was unknown till Chedden performed it; unless it be supposed that

had been sent to you by Mr. Loring in October, and  
will be sent you again by express to-day. I am sending  
you a copy of the same letter, which you will find in the  
same order, and will be sent you by express to-day.

7 Hospital Surgical Disease, May

Consideration has been given to the subject of a  
new and more comprehensive system of classification  
of diseases, and it is proposed to submit a paper on  
the subject to the next meeting of the American  
Medical Association, in Boston, in June. This  
paper will be submitted to the Board of Governors  
of the American Medical Association, and if  
approved, will be presented to the Board of Governors  
of the International Congress of Physicians, in  
Paris, in August, and will be published in the  
Transactions of the International Congress of  
Physicians, and in the American Journal of  
Medical Science, and in other medical journals,  
and will be available for use in the United States  
and abroad.

Bless had some idea of it when he says, "After cutting the muscles  
near to the bone, the flesh should be reflected and detached un-  
derneath with a scalpel, in order to denude a portion of the  
bone. The latter is then to be divided as near as possible to the heal-  
thy flesh which remains adherent." The operation as performed  
by Blessing, was not completely successful, for the retraction of  
the integuments was such, as sometimes to bane the bone bare.  
To remedy this Mr. Sharp proposed the crimp stitch, but with-  
out effect.

Freytag was the first who attempted to extract the cataract,  
about the close of the seventeenth century. M. David of  
Paris was the first who communicated the new method to  
the public. Many other cases might be quoted to prove, that for  
the principal inventions and improvements, in surgery, we are  
indebted to practitioners of a modern date. But these are suffi-  
cient. No one now looks into old surgical works, but to compare  
the ancient, with the modern state of the science.

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admirable qualities which may be observed in him. His noble  
manners have rendered him a favorite with the nobility and gentry of the country.  
He is a very learned man, and has written several volumes of Latin and  
Greek literature, and has also composed a number of Latin and Greek  
poems. He is a member of the Royal Society, and has been elected a Fellow of the  
Royal Society of Literature. He is a man of great talents, and has  
written several works of great interest, and has also composed a number of  
Latin and Greek poems.

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and has also composed a number of Latin and Greek poems. He is a man  
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## Of the Present Improved State of Physic.

It is not without peculiar satisfaction that I mention the present improved state of physic, and recount a few, of the many discoveries and improvements which have been made in it, by which the miseries of mankind have been alleviated, the catalogue of incurables abridged, and death often been baffled in his attempts upon human life.

It is in the United States that we see fevers yielding oftener, and in less time than in any parts of the world, to our superior treatment. It is here also, that the pathology of the yellow fever, which has depopulated tropical climates, has been ascertained, and its treatment rendered rational and successful.

By attending to its premonitory signs, and meeting them with proper prophylactics, we see pulmonary consumption prevented; and by the use of proper remedies, some forms of it cured, after its symptoms are completely developed.

The gout has been won from its ancient sanctuary

where Death is Life & vice versa life is death &  
not Death cannot therefore claim life

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in error and prejudice; and we now see, its acute paroxysms yield to cathartics, blood letting, a dose or two of Eau Medicinal, &c. or tincture of Colchicum autumnale, and gentle diaphoretics.

Hydrocephalus internus, cymarake trachealis and cholera infantum, which formerly proved so fatal to children, are now successfully treated; the two former by copious emesis, emetics and cathartics; and the last, by moderate blood letting, mercurial purges, laudanum, mild astringents, and country air.

Acute and excreting spasmodic pains of the head, which, under an idea of their originating in an affection of the facial nerves, were treated, per sanguinem nervorum without success, now yield to the continued use of emetics.

Traumatic tetanus is now prevented, by producing an inflammation in the injured parts; and compelling them to defend the whole system, by a local disease. And where tetanus has arisen from other causes than wounds, spasm, wine and other diffusive and permanent stimuli, often effect a cure.

which have been in the same place  
and which are now a part of the same  
group have been made in the same place.

The second division consists of

\* Rush, Inga, Lecythis, Terminalia, etc., which  
are unique in their shape and form.  
The third division consists of  
the common trees of the country, such as  
Cedrela, Guadua, etc., which are  
common in all parts of the country.  
The fourth division consists of  
the trees which are found in the  
mountains and hills, such as  
Inga, Lecythis, Terminalia, etc., which  
are found in the mountains and hills.  
The fifth division consists of  
the trees which are found in the  
valleys and plains, such as  
Inga, Lecythis, Terminalia, etc., which  
are found in the valleys and plains.

Death from drinking cold water, in the heated state of the body, is now obviated by previously wetting the hands, or the feet, with the water, to free the system from some of its superabundant calorific; and when this precaution has been neglected, the disease induced by it, is generally cured by large doses of liquid laudanum, or other diffusible stimulant.

The improvements in midwifery are very important. In consequence of this branch being practised by well-educated accouchers, death from parturition takes place much less frequent than formerly.

By copious blood-letting, the pains of parturition are lessened, and the birth facilitated, when from rigidity of the os uteri, the uterus either does not contract, or contracts in vain. The same is accomplished by the use of the scale cornutum when the contractions of the uterus are insufficient, from want of energy of the uterine fibres: the cervix and os uteri, as well as the external parts, being sufficiently dilated, or disposed to dilate.

\* It appears more than probable that the ergot was used by midwives, long before it came into use among接骨师 among接骨师. An old lady now living in New-Holland, Pennsylvania, which came from Germany, and was then a licensed midwife, says she knew the use of the ergot as mother's  
herb, as she called it, more than forty years ago. And its anti-hysteria virtues are mentioned in a German work entitled "Civisior Botanicus," published at Leipzig in 1745.

Under the article Scale, the author says: "Die schwarzen Hornspflein, oder Mutter-Hornlein, sagen das Aufsteigen der mutter."

The use of the ergot, till lately was unknown to accouching; and so was the present receipt of venesection.

+

Puerperal fever is prevented by regulating the diet, and the quantity of circulating fluids, and cured by the use of the lancet, laxatives, gentle diaphoretics and febrifuges.

When we are better we must enough  
circulate the air, either by opening doors  
and windows, or by fanning.

When we are weary we must go to bed,  
and when we are fatigued we must walk.

Drinking a quantity of blood will do us good,  
especially those of a languid constitution,  
communicate a lively ardor.

Having a cold bath will cool us  
and the sweat will be easily removed by  
massaging the body with a sponge.

It is a smallish bird with a dark greyish brown back and wings, with a white patch on each wing. Its breast is white with a few dark spots. It has a short, dark, slightly upturned bill. Its legs are long and thin, with long toes.

Under the white back, the white vent and the white tail feathers, there are some light greyish brown feathers.

## Of the Present Improved State of Surgery.

I should greatly exceed the limits prescribed to this dissertation, were I to notice all the improvements in surgery. A part of them, however, are too important to be passed over in silence.

External aneurisms, which once proved as fatal as internal ones, are now treated with great success, by obliterating the cavity of the aepel for some distance above and below the dilatation.

Hemorrhage which the old surgeons very imperfectly understood, are now successfully managed, since the discoveries and improvements of Baumer, Gimbrent, Sley, and especially those of Mr. B. Cooper, and Mr. Lammes, were communicated to the publick.

Hemorrhage which used to be treated by aspergient and the cautery, is now stopped by compression, or ligature of the bleeding vessels.



The treatment of the injuries of the head, is much improved, since the publications of LeDran, Pott and Abernethy have been read.

The subject of inflammation, and the healing of wounds, is now much better understood, since we have received the productions of Mr. Hunter, and Mr. Burns.

And in the United States every branch of surgery is better understood, and the practice more successful, since the publication of that most excellent treatise "The Elements of Surgery" by the late ingenious (but now lamented) Dr. J. S. Dorsey of this University.

Among the numerous American improvements the following may be enumerated.

In cases of blindness from a partial opacity of the cornea; or from the closure of the natural pupil, a new pupil is made: and where the cornea is partially opaque the opening through the iris is formed opposite to any part which retains its transpa-

\*Though the use of blisters in *syphilis* was known to Ambrose Paré,

unoy.

The cure of fractures is now accelerated by blood letting, and, where the union of the broken bone has not taken place from a defect of bony matter, it is produced by the inflammation caused by passing a seton between the fractured ends of the bone instead of exposing the cavity by an incision, and cutting off the ends of the fragments, which has been suggested, and sometimes unsuccessfully performed, by European surgeons.

Luxations, which have long resisted both force and art, are now reduced in a few minutes, and without pain, by bleeding ad deliquium animi.

Chronic and indolent ulcers, are speedily cured by destroying their surfaces, and consequently placing them in the condition of sores from recent accidents.

Erysipelas is cured, and external mortifications are checked, by the application of blisters to the affected party.

yet the merit of bringing this remedy into use, after it had been so long antiquated, may be regarded almost tantamount to its discovery.

With regard to the application of blisters in cases of mortification, it ought to be observed, that it should be restricted to those, which have been produced by inflammation. There appears to be something peculiar in the nature of inflammation having a tendency to terminate in the death of the parts affected; and it is only with a view of changing this, that blisters should be employed. Nor can they be beneficial, only in proportion as they produce this effect.

\*See Dr. Don's Elements of Surgery, Vol. I. pp. 47-50. Dr. Physick's publication in the Eclectic Register for 1816.

Dr. Don's Elements of Surgery, Vol. I. pp. 47-50. Dr. Physick's publication in the Eclectic Register for 1816.

Isochuria is cured by the addition of a piece of a bovie to a flexible catheter; and strictures in the urethra are removed by means of a caustic; also, in a more expeditious way, by dividing them with a lancet, by which the puncturing of the bladder is, in most cases (prevented) superseded.

Of late we have seen the leatheren ligatures introduced into practice, in amputations, amputations, and, for the suppression of hemorrhage from accidental wounds, by which the sufferings of the patient have been abridged, and the healing of the parts facilitated.

For the introduction of several of these remedios, and for the discovery and improvement of others, we are indebted to Dr. Physick, professor of Surgery in this University. But they form only a few of the many contributions, by which he has enriched every branch of medicine.

including myself, and I have hardly  
got time now to write or consider things.  
However we are here now, and I am not  
inclined to go back again. I have made  
arrangements with the school to provide my wife  
and children with a room and board until October.  
Consequently we will remain here until then, and then  
I shall continue in search of other means of support,  
and if you will let me know when you  
will be leaving, I will get a boat to take us down river  
to Condado, and then catch the bus to Rio Piedras, and  
then try to take a boat for P.R.

I am sending you my address in Rio  
Piedras, and you can mail the  
money direct to me. It is a better way  
and it will give you more pleasure than sending it  
indirectly through a bank. I will let you  
know when I leave you.

When we take a retrospective view of our science for seventy years back, and compare it with the present improved, and improving state, how bright are our prospects in contemplating the many acquisitions which will be realized for the same period to come. Viewing it in this light, who can tell but that the present century may close, by striking off the last, from the opprobrious catalogue, of incurable diseases.

Fins.

Die neuen und neu entdeckten & den zu add.  
zu neigen den bestehenden sind nach folgender  
reihenfolge der gewissenhaften Kürzung  
so geordnet und aufzuführen in derer wir uns  
ansetzen sollt. Ich kann diejenigen  
der Reihe nach aufzählen, wenn es sich um  
eine neue reihe handelt, so dass ich die neu  
entdeckten Alten und diejenigen, die von  
denen wir nichts wissen, auslassen.

Sei gescheit.